THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAN: (a) Yes, Sir.

fb) No. Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

Commission for Review of Administrative Laws

*332. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Commission to review all administrative laws;

(b) if so, whether due to cumbersome administrative laws, the common man has to face great difficulty in knowing and facing various laws;

(c) if so, the terms of reference of the Commission; and

(d) by when the Commission is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES' AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The Government has set up a Commission on review of administrative laws in May, 1996.

The terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:

(i) To undertake an overview of steps taken by different Ministries/ Departments for the review of administrative laws, regulations and procedures administered by them, and the follow-up steps thereafter, for repeal and amendment.

(ii) To identify, in consultation with Ministries/Departments and client groups, proposals for amendments to existing laws, regulations and procedures, where these are in the nature of law common to more than one Department, or where they have a bearing on the effective working of more than one Ministry/Department and State Governments, or where a collectivity of laws impact on the performance of an economic or social sector or where they have a bearing on industry and trade.

(iii) To examine, in the case of selected areas like environment, industry, trade and commerce, housing and real estate specific changes in existing rules and procedures so as to make them objective, transparent and predictable.

(iv) To make on the basis of this exercise, recommendations for repeal/amendments of laws, regulations and procedures, legislative process etc.

The Commission has been given 3 months' time for submitting its report.

The Commission has been set up on account of the Government's perception of the problems faced by the public and the industry from the existing legal and regulatory framework, and the need to make it simpler and more transparent.

Release of Fund for Andhra Pradesh form NFCR

*333. DRr Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sanction an amount of Rs. 831.32 crores as requested by the Government of Andhra Pradesh from the National Fund for Calamity Relief on account of exceptional and severe calamity in the State due to failure of monsoon in the last kharif season;

(b) if so, by when will it be released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a Memorandum in September, 1997 seeking additional assistance of Rs. 831.33 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought conditions during South-West Monsoon 1997-98. The National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) approved Rs. 30.00 crore from the NFCR to the State Government for meeting the situation arising out of drought conditions. This amount was released to the State by the Ministry of Finance on 14th January, 1998.

(c) Does not arise.

विदेशों में शवों का दाह-संस्कार

*334.**प्रो.विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा**: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) किन-किन देशों में हिन्दुओं को दाह-संस्कार की अनुमति नहीं है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस मामले पर उन देशों के साथ बातचीत की है;और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस मामले को मानव-अधिकारों के अन्तर्गत अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंचों पर उठाया हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री(श्री मती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) से (ग) विश्व में 24 देश ऐसे हैं जहां शवों के दाह संस्कार की अनुमति नहीं है । ये हैं सऊदी अरब,कतर,जोर्डन,कुवैत,सेनेगल,गाम्बिया,माली,मारितानिया,केप वर्दे आइलैंड,गिनी विसाऊ,टयूनिशिया,टर्की,यूनान,इजराइल,लीबिया,बुर्किना फासो,माल्टा,मालदीव,आइवरी कोस्ट,नाइजर,गिनी माक्रोनेशिया,पराम्वे और तुर्कमेनिस्तान ।

जब इस मामले को उपरिलिखित देशों के सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों के समक्ष उठाया गया तब उनमें से कुछ देशों ने भारत सरकार के इस अनुरोध को स्वीकार न कर पाने के कारण औपचारिक रूप से खेद व्यक्त किया क्योंकि इससे उनके अपने नियमों,प्रथाओं और उन औपचारिक विधिक सम्मति का उल्लंधन होता है जिसमें यह विनिर्दिष्ट हैं कि शवों का अन्तिम संस्कार करने का एक मात्र उपाय दफन करना है । कुछ देशों ने यह जानकारी दी है कि उनके यहां दाह संस्कार स्थल नहीं है और एक देश ने यह कहा है कि पंरपरावादी चर्च शवों के दाह संस्कार की अनुमति नहीं देते हैं ।

मृतक के सगे सगे संबंधियों को,यदि वे चाहें तो शव को ऐसे नजदीकी देश में ले जाने की अनुमति दी जाती है जहां दाह संस्कार की अनुमति होती है अथवा उन्हें शवों को दाह संस्कार के लिए अपने देश में ले जाने दिया जाता है । ये नियम और प्रथाएं सभी धर्मो को मानने वालों पर लागू होते हैं । इस तरह से हिन्दुओं के विरूद्व कोई विशेष प्रकार का भेदभाव नहीं किया जाता । इसमें मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन का कोई मामला नहीं बनता अत: सरकार ने इस मामले को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर नहीं उठाया है।

Agreement on Light Water Nuclear Reactors

*335. DR. GOPALRAO VITHAL-RAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is going to sign or has signed an agreement with Russia for the supply of 1000 MW Light Water Nuclear Reactors;

(b) if so, how the tariff of electricity will compare with other - reactors and electricity generated by other sources;

(c) what is the Time and cost over runs of other heavy water reactors in India; and what are the causes for the same; and

(d) whether Government are adopting Fast Breeder Technology for generation of electricity (Power) in the country and if so, what is the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) India and the Russian Federation-have signed a Supplement to the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988 on 21,6.98 for setting up two 1000 MWe Light water Reactors at Kudankulam in